

As the requirements for lengthier deployments continue to rise, more Airmen will be called upon to deploy, and in many cases, perform duties in different organizations and environments than what they're used to. It's part of the Air Force culture — to be expeditionary. Another part of our culture is the value we place on quality of life, and this doesn't change whether Airmen are at their home station or deployed.

With this in mind, the Airman staff compiled a list of the "Top 10 deployment benefits." Though not all inclusive, this list does provide a glimpse of the numerous ways the Air Force takes care of Airmen during deployments.

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# 1 REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Deployments offer many real-world experiences that your standard office job just can't match. It won't always be easy work, but it can be fun and educational. Some deployments even offer you the chance to work outside of your career field and perform a mission-critical job such as a postal clerk or a foreign national escort.

# 2 MAKE SOME FRIENDS

Not that we're saying you don't already have some. Still, working side-by-side with Airmen and members of our sister services for four to six months can create some lasting bonds and generate new friendships you'll enjoy for years to come. It's also a good way to find out about other Air Force bases by talking to Airmen who are stationed there.

# 3 UNIQUE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you're a giver, deployments offer you the chance to give back to the international community. You can take part in a school supply drive for local children, build a new playground or even hand out clothes and other necessities at a refugee camp.

# 4 SHORT-TOUR CREDIT

Due for a short tour but aren't thrilled at the prospect of spending another TDY away from your family? There are actually a limited number of 180-day deployments that will give you short-tour credit. So, you can deploy and earn a short tour all in one step ... and in half the time.

# 6 GET FIT

Being "fit to fight" becomes reality while deployed. While everyone should be in great physical condition before they deploy, for many, the TDY gives them the extra motivation to get in even better shape. Whether your workouts consist of your normal job duties, or some overtime at the base fitness center, you're guaranteed to come home a fitter fighter.

# 7 STAMP YOUR PASSPORT

One of the reasons you probably joined the Air Force was to travel and see the world. Well, good news ... deployments offer you just that chance. From Africa to Antarctica, the Middle East to the Far East, there are plenty of places to see and cultures to learn about while deployed.



# ANSWERING THE CALL



# 5 GET 'SCHOOLED'

Can't seem to find the time to study for that next stripe or college degree? Finding regular life too distracting? Deploy to a remote location and develop study habits that would make your high school English teacher proud. With just you and your books, you can do just that in your off time while deployed.

For more information on deployment opportunities, check out the Air Force Personnel Web site at <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil> or the Air and Space Expeditionary Force Center Web site at <https://aefcenter.acc.af.mil>.

## TOP 10 DEPLOYMENT BENEFITS

# 8 SAVE AWAY

Airmen who deploy have the opportunity to earn some decent extra pay with incentives like hostile fire pay, family separation pay and per diem based on the duty location. And, because many deployment locations are also tax free, you won't have to pay Uncle Sam any federal income tax during your deployment time.

# 9 STACK YOUR RACK

Odds are that Airmen who deploy have more medals and ribbons than those who don't. So, if you're tired of being made fun of for being the "little stack" in your unit, a deployment or two will remedy this fact. There are numerous awards you can qualify for once deployed.

# 10 EXTRAS

Everything you need to survive while deployed is free. Laundry services, food and off-duty activities such as pool and video games are all provided by the local services squadron. In some locations, even mailing a letter back home is free. What this means for you is that you won't have to spend a dime and can actually save the money you're earning.